

JUNE

Magic Lantern Society

NEWS 2025



Be Sure to LOOK for those Buttons and
roll-over effects

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[Click on Slide to view Asahel Curtis NW Slides](#)



The Magic Lantern Calendar –June 2025

Events

- Jun. 6-8, 2025, **Tintypes, Telegraph and Magic Lantern Shows**, Matt Schnittker at the Little House on the Prairie 50 Year Cast Reunion, Columbia State Historic Park, Columbia, CA 953410.
- Jun. 7, 2025, **Book of Stars**, a newly written folktale told through magic lantern performance and original music, by Georgia Beatty, Sandglass Theater, 17 Kimball Hall, Putney VT 05346.
- Jun. 8, 2025, **Magic Lantern Show**, Dawn Elliott and Joel Schlemowitz present their award-winning magic lantern show, Clermont State Historic Site, One Clermont Ave, Germantown, NY 12526.
- Jun. 19- 20, 2025, **Im Zauber Des Lichts, Bilderwelten der Latera Magica**, exhibition with shows of slides by Bottcher (19th) and 18th century slides and Bottcher's Soiree (20th), Freilichtmuseum Hessenpark, Laubweg 5, 61267 Neu-Anspach, Germany.
- Jul. 2 – 4, 2025, **The World at a Glance: Panoramic and Peep Technologies**, 34th Conference of the International Panorama Council, Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation, Lisbon, Portugal.
- Jul. 12, 2025, **A Magic Lantern Phantasmagoria**, at the Raleigh Fringe Festival, projectionist and storyteller Brett King presents an authentic Victorian Magic Lantern Show, Theatre Raleigh Arts Center, 6638 Old Wake Forest Road, Raleigh, NC 27616
- Jul. 17 – 31, 2025, **Harper Thursday and the Magic Lantern**, a theatrical adventure, this enchanting production invites families to embark on a journey filled with wonder and imagination. The Common Room, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE1 1SE, England.
- Jul. 19, 2025, **Summer meeting**, Magic Lantern Society (UK), Lacey Green Millennium Hall, Main Road, Lacey Green, HP27 0QN, Buckinghamshire, England.
- Oct. 10-12, 2025, **Magic Lantern Show**, Matt Schnittker at Gold Rush Live at Marshall gold Discovery State Park, 310 Back Street, Coloma CA 95613.
- Oct. 18, 2025, **Autumn meeting**, Magic Lantern Society (UK), Swedenborg Hall, 20-21 Bloomsbury Way, London WC1A 2TH, England.
- Through 2025, **Project Space Residency**, featuring Melissa Ferrari, Visual Studies Workshop, 31 Prince Street, Rochester, NY 14607.
- Jan. 25, 2026, **2026 Annual General Meeting**, Magic Lantern Society (UK), Musical Museum, Brentford, London, England.
- Apr. 23-26, 2026, **21st International Convention of the Magic Lantern Society of the US and Canada**, Toronto, CA.
Save the Date – more information coming soon!
- Sundays through Thursdays, **Salem on Foot: Magic Lantern Tour**, rare and strange images projected upon shadowy walls and darkened streets, bringing life to tales of ghosts and witchcraft and murder. Derby Square, Downtown Salem, MA.

continued next page

Calendar –continued

Exhibits

Through Aug. 17, 2025, **Words and Wonder: Rediscovering Children's Literature**, a rare look at juvenilia including magic lantern slides from Aesop's Fables, Harry Ransom Center, University of Texas at Austin, 300 West 21st St., Austin, TX 78712.

Through Dec. 28, 2026, **Im Zauber Des Lichts, Bilderwelten der Laterna Magica**, an overview of children's slides production in Germany with examples from the beginnings in the 1780s to the 1930s, with children's lanterns from the same period, with their boxes, Freilichtmuseum Hessenpark, Laubweg 5, 61267 Neu-Anspach, Germany.

Through Dec. 29, 2025, **Im Zauber des Lichts – Bildrewelten der Laterna Magica: Magic Lantern and Toy Lantern Slide exhibition**, Freilichtmuseum Hessenpark, Laubweg 5, 6126 Neu-Anspach/Taunus, Germany.

Ongoing, **Te Manawa Magic Box**, hands-on learning for all ages, Te Puawananga Science and Technology Centre, Museum of Transport and Technology, 805 Great North Road & 98 Motions Road, Western Springs, Auckland 1022, New Zealand.

Ongoing, **Kent Museum of the Moving Image**, newly exhibit about World War One in film and media, and Peeping and Projecting looking at peephole cinema. Stanhope Road, Deal, Kent CT14 6AD UK.

Online

Magic Lantern Research Group, Learn about, collaborate on academic research. Monthly on Zoom, Contact Terry Borton: tborton@magiclanternshows.com

Magic Lantern Performing Group, Improve your skills every other Wednesday on Zoom. Contact Terry Borton: tborton@magiclanternshows.com

Media History Digital Library, <https://mediahistoryproject.org/collections/magic-lantern/> Magic lantern ephemera.

De Luikerwaal Dutch Virtual Museum, <https://www.luikerwaal.com/> Magic lantern history, pictures, stories.

Lucerna – the Magic Lantern Web Resource, online database collaboration covering all aspects of magic lanterns. <http://lucerna.exeter.ac.uk/>

The Museum of American Magic Lantern Shows, 5-minute intro, 10-minute Highlights Tour, 30-minute In-Depth Tour and Kids' Page. www.magiclanternmuseum.com

To add your magic lantern show, exhibition, or other event to our calendar, or to list your show for potential bookings, drop a line to briandrogers@gmail.com.

Riley Brothers Information Wanted

From Terry Borton

Hi Larry,

Please put this note in the EPub.

Riley Brothers was a major British lantern company, calling itself the "Largest Lantern Outfitters in the World." During the 1890s they opened a branch in the USA, with outlets in seven cities. But their efforts to establish themselves here apparently failed. With Jeremy Brooker of England I'm exploring the possibility of writing something about their American venture. Does anyone have any information on the subject (other than the ML Encyclopaedia), or, especially, any catalogs that I might borrow, photograph, and return promptly? Thanks for your consideration. Terry Borton tborton@magiclanternshows.com

Thanks, Larry, As Always,

Terry

Museum of HSTM

Museum of the History of Science, Technology and Medicine at the University of Leeds

Riley Brothers, "Advertisement: Improved Praestantia Lantern", Ashburton Guardian, Volume XV, Issue 3268, 2nd May 1894, p.3

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ALL the best of the New Sets introduced as published; Largest Stock and safest Circulation in the world; Hires double themselves every Season; can be sent free both ways, at our risk, for 6s 3d.
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Marvellously Improved this Season.
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Large Catalogue, with New Supplement, 6d., Supplements, 2d; Operator's Guide, 1½d Hints for Hirers, 2d; Hire Lists, free; Sample Pictorial Window Bills, 1d., from
RILEY BROTHERS
5, Cheapside, Bradford.

<https://museumofhstm.wordpress.com/>



<https://www.bradfordfilmheritage.com/portfolio/riley-brothers-set-up-magic-lantern-business/>

Riley Brothers set up Magic Lantern business

In 1883, Bradford businessman Joseph Riley bought a Magic Lantern for his two eldest sons, Herbert and William. Originally developed in the 16th century, the Magic Lantern was a device that projected images from painted or photographed slides, often used for both educational and entertainment purposes. It was the latter that the Rileys had in mind, and they used their machine to put on public shows in aid of a local children's charity.

This led Joseph Riley to set up a lantern slide business as part of his existing company, Riley Brothers, run with his brother Sam. Herbert and William ran the business, which saw them selling and renting magic lantern slides and equipment out of their base at 55 & 57 Godwin Street. The Rileys' interest in the Magic Lantern, an early precursor to moving picture presentation, foretold their later involvement in the emerging art of cinematography.

Contact

Terry Borton
tborton@magiclanternsh

An Unusual Magic Lantern Mechanism

From Charles Barten

charles@toverlantaarn.eu

Seeking Information

In the 60-plus years that I've been fortunate enough to live out my passion in the world of magic lanterns, I've encountered and restored a wide array of curious and unique models. Many of these have become the highlights of my collection—the “icing on the cake,” so to speak.

However, a recent acquisition has presented me with a true mystery—one that I'd like to share with you, and for which I humbly seek your insights.

Most magic lanterns I've worked with feature a slide-changing mechanism via a slide holder, available in various forms and designs. But this particular lantern, which regrettably bears no nameplate or manufacturer's mark, employs a remarkably unusual system I've never encountered before.

As seen in the attached photo, a brass knob (marked by the red arrow) can be rotated 180 degrees to the left or right. This action raises

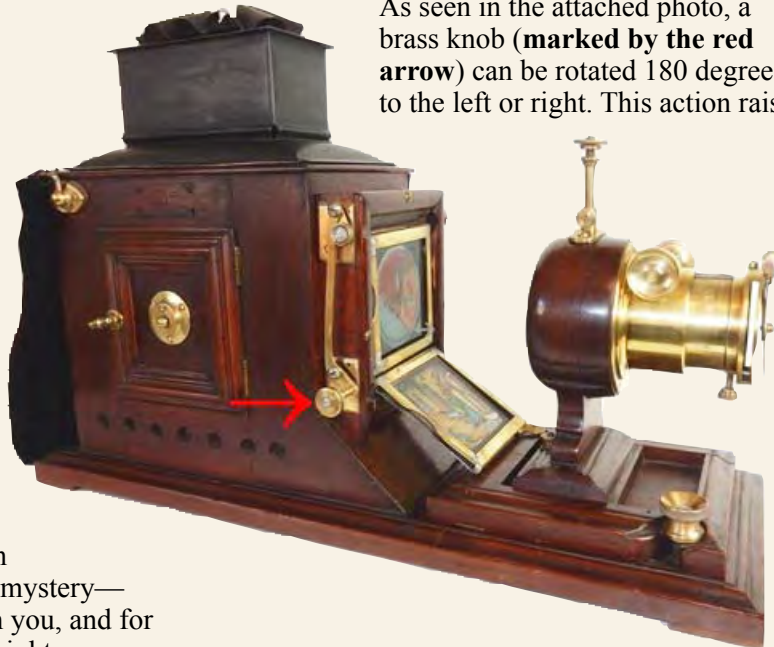
or lowers two separate slide holders, allowing for the replacement of one slide at a time.

It's a rather intricate system—certainly unconventional—but after careful restoration, it operates beautifully, like clockwork.

And so, I turn to this knowledgeable community with a few questions:

Has anyone seen this type of mechanism before?

Could this be a prototype or a custom-made piece?



continued next page

An Unusual Magic Lantern Mechanism continued

Might anyone recognize the design or mechanism and associate it with a specific maker or manufacturer?

Additionally, I'm curious about the adjustable axle on the lens holder—what might its intended purpose be?

And what function does the detachable lens component serve? Is it for cleaning, focusing, or perhaps even lens interchangeability?

Any information, references, or insights you can share would be deeply appreciated. Sometimes, the joy of collecting lies just as much in the discovery as in the item itself.

With thanks in advance,

Charles Barten

Alkmaar, the Netherlands
www.toverlantaarn.eu
charles@toverlantaarn.eu



& the Year was
1890

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MAGIC
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Dissolving View
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 IMPROVEMENTS.
 Price moderate for first-
 class workmanship.

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STEWART'S
PHOTOGENIC LANTERNS,
 With four inch Condenser and three-wick
 Lamps, are the best oil-light Lanterns made.
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 Price from £22 2s.
 The patent "GRIP" CLIP for fixing
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 per dozen.

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 in his paper on the "best way to show
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 thony's Photographic Bulletin, etc.
 No other General Lanternscope
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 scope, it gives much an amount of work
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 Price—
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 trated, in black wood stand; all jet-pierced
 or lacquered brass lenses, 25s.; solid
 brass body throughout, and nickel plated
 or lacquered brass fittings (see photograph),
 35s.
 Tylar's Platinum Gummed Slides
 are the best made; 1s. 6d.
 Artists' Prints, Index Number Labels,
 Working Books, Counting Slips,
 Sliding Boxes (hold 250, 500, 1000,
 2000, 5000, 10000). Full List sent free of
 charge.
W. TYLAR,
 27, HIGH STREET, ASTON
 BIRMINGHAM.

Member Activity



Festival director Ieva Balode and magic lantern performance artist Melissa Ferrari tell about this year's motif and attraction to phantasmagories.

Melissa Ferrari

Very happy to be at the brilliant Baltic Analog Lab in Riga, Latvia for Process Festival Performing a lantern show friday evening, and here are moments from the phantasmagoria lantern slide workshop I co-taught this weekend at the BAL Film School with Armands Andže providing instruction on dry plate photography, allowing students to create both hand-drawn and photographic lantern slides.

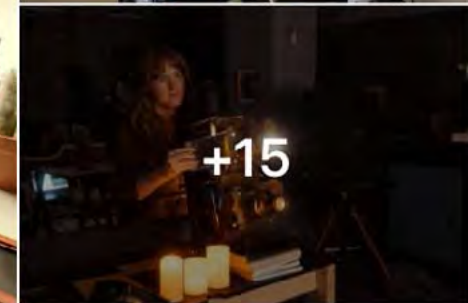
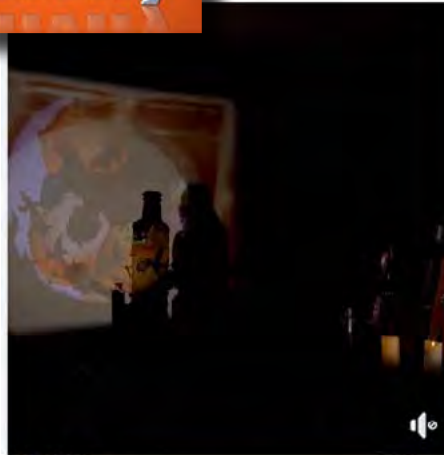
The students will perform their magic lantern x 16mm expanded cinema performance tomorrow at opening night of the Process Festival. Send your friends in the region to the festival! Huge thank you to Ieva, Sintija, Armands & BAL for having me .

On May 21 thru 25

The 6th Experimental Film Festival Process will take place from 21 to 25 May in Riga, Latvia at Vagonu Hall, Nurme Brewery and bar 1983.

Organized by the artist-run film lab Baltic Analog Lab, the festival is dedicated to the diverse analog cinema practices employed by adventurous audiovisual artists from around

the world. The programme comprises film screenings, live performances, installations, talks, and, of course, parties.



Check-out the link below to see videos of Melissa's show

<https://www.facebook.com/melissa.ferrari.2025/posts/pfbid0TuJcrgM5aTe8zFe5FdV5MGGNs924EAMUep2AuUduUnoJ9nUhwSuoXyuBdqkf13izl>



Matt Schnittker

I performed Magic Lantern shows during the “Columbia Diggins 1852” event in Columbia State Historic Park. The event is intended to reproduce a typical gold rush tent town in 1850’s California. We bring three different attractions to



the event. We have a working 1800’s Telegraph, we perform Magic Lantern Shows, and we also have an 1850’s photography studio making Tintypes using the Wet Plate Collodion process. We made an image of the Magic Lantern venue using period photographic techniques. Watch out for these itinerant Magic Lantern performers traveling through the western frontier!

Pulling off an event like this takes an army of volunteers. Although I couldn’t quite capture them all in frame, here’s a group tintype of the cast. The image was made using the Wet Plate Collodion process using a large wooden camera and an 1860’s photographic lens.

John Gallaro at May 25 Spring Camera Fair Toronto



Ps - I sold 4 Magic Lanterns and the Zoetrope... so it was a good day. At least 30 people took a handbill after I mentioned the Convention... you never know... maybe a few will show up??

John Gallaro

All set and ready at the Show... in addition to selling today - promoting the Magic Lantern Society of the United States and Canada Convention next April in Toronto...



FOR SALE

Slides For Sale

Larry Cederblom
designerlc@comcast.net



1

\$4 EACH PLUS SHIPPING

Yard of San Juan ? by C. Kanzee Slides



2

Sacramento Terrace Capitol Grounds
by William H. Rau, photographer



3

Western Cattle Ranch By Williams Brown & Earle, Inc



4

San Francisco Cliff House & Seal Rocks
by William H. Rau, photographer



5

Power Plant 3 miles from Mokelumne Hill, CA
By Williams Brown & Earle, Inc



6

California Mt Shasta from Sissons
by Rau Art Studios, Inc

FOR SALE

Lantern For Sale

Delineascope Model H

by The Spencer Lens Co. Buffalo NY

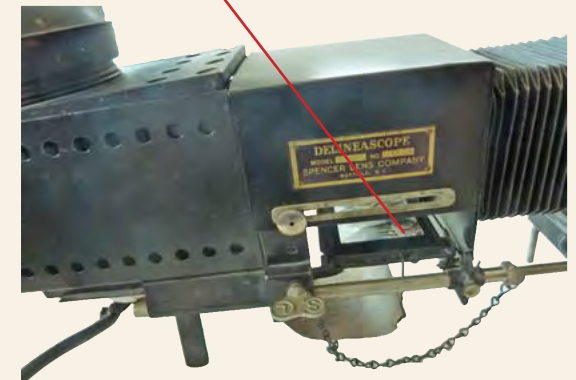
11½" High x 19½" long x 7½" wide



\$100
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Unique slide Carrier



Information About the Hotel and Conference Venue

From Janelle Blankenship

The 21st International Convention of the Magic Lantern Society of the US and Canada will be held at the Village at Black Creek, a re-created 19th-century country village in North York, Toronto. Immerse yourself in the 1860s and explore a charming country village of the Toronto region.

**Thursday April 23rd - Early Set Up,
Village at Black Creek**
Friday April 24th - Village at Black Creek
Saturday April 25th - Village at Black Creek
**Sunday April 26th - Half-day,
Schulich Executive Learning Centre,
York University**



Travel to Toronto:

The Executive Learning Centre is conveniently located on the York University Main Campus, only 20 minutes from Pearson International Airport and easily accessible by car or public transit. The nearest subway station is York University Station, part of the Toronto Transit Commission's (TTC) Line 1. The York University Station is a 3 minute walk, conveniently located directly across from the Schulich School of Business.



The permanent exhibition “Invention: Propelled by Imagination” explores how 19th-century’s scientific and technological advancements fueled creativity and imagination, particularly in the realm of science fiction.



Village at Black Creek:
1000 Murray Ross Pkwy,
Toronto, ON M3J 2P3
Website: <https://blackcreek.ca/>

continued next page

Conference Venue continued

A block of rooms has been reserved at the Schulich Executive Learning Centre at York University at a discounted rate. To book accommodations at the Executive Learning Centre, Schulich School of Business, please contact the reservations team:

- **Room Rate:** \$189.00 CAD per night plus 13% HST based on single occupancy; \$20.00 CAD plus 13% HST applies as double occupancy fee.
- The discounted rate is also available for a select number of rooms for two nights prior and after the conference. If you want to make a reservation for these “shoulder dates” please book early.
- **Room Type:**

Standard room type: 1 Queen Bed
A limited number of King bed rooms are also available. These King rooms are offered on a first-come, first-serve basis, and guests may request them when selecting double occupancy. To ensure your attendees have the best chance of securing a King room, book early and specify your preference at the time of reservation.



Schulich Executive Learning Center Hotel Hotel Reservations:
Schulich Hotel - 4700 Keele Street
Toronto, ON M3J 1P3, Canada
<https://www.acc-schulichexecutiveconferencecentre.com/>
Underground parking available

- **Email:** reservations@schulich.yorku.ca
- Phone: 416-650-8300
- **Important Booking Details:**
- **Block ID:** 871212
- **Block Name:** Magic Lantern Society Conference
- **Reservation Deadline:** March 21, 2026
- **Check In/Check Out:** 4pm/12 noon
After this date, any unused rooms will be released back into general inventory and will be subject to availability.

A Big Thank You to the following:

Charles Barten
Janelle Blankenship
Terry Borton
David Evans Melissa Ferrari
John Gallaro
Brian Rogers
Matt Schnittker

**for contributing
to this months issue.**



• **Meeting**
• **Potluck**
& Show and Tell

Sunday
June 22

at Dale & Joanna
Chesnut's